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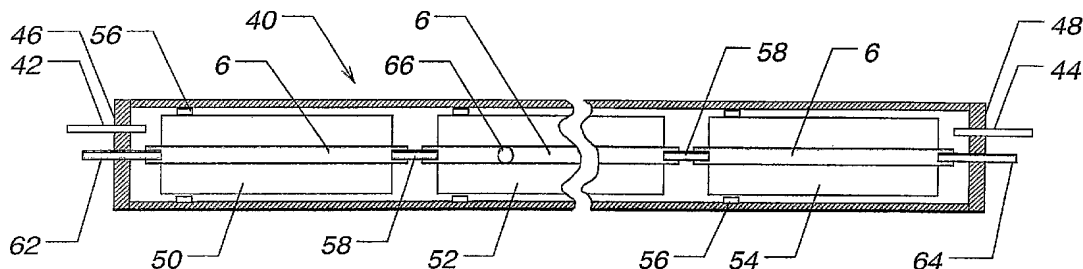
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR TREATING SOLUTIONS OF HIGH OSMOTIC STRENGTH



(57) Abstract: The present invention pertains to an apparatus and method for treating a solution of high osmotic strength, especially seawater and solutions of greater than 20 bar osmotic pressure, by passing the solution through a vessel containing spiral wound reverse osmosis or nanofiltration elements. The vessel contains at least three elements in series and at least two of these elements have standard specific fluxes that differ by at least 50%. The invention allows a more even flux distribution within a filtration system to be obtained, and it may advantageously be combined with variations in element construction and feed spacers.

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